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MARCH 4.

The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Thirty-seven persons present.

A paper entitled "The Rufous or Thatching Ant of Dakota and Colorado," by Henry C. McCook, D. D., was presented for publication.

Dictyophora as Apsilus vorax.—Prof. LEIDY stated that Mr. Uselma C. Smith, last week, had afforded him the opportunity of examining a wheelless rotifer, attributed to *Apsilus*, which he had found abundantly, last autumn, in a pond at Fairmount Park, attached to *Anacharis*, and likewise in the Schuylkill River, near by, on *Potamogeton.* A number of specimens were observed attached to the sides of the jar, as well as to both the plants contained therein. The specimens being more readily detached from the latter than from the glass vessel, they were seen under more favorable circumstances than previously. They were recognized as *Dictyophora*, first described in 1857; and as a result of the last examinations, Prof. Leidy was led to the opinion that this, the *Apsilus lentiformis* Meczinchow, the *Cupelopagus bucinedax* Forbes, and the *Apsilus bipera*, recently communicated to the Academy by Miss Foulke, all pertain to the same species. In the recent specimens he had recognized the lateral antennæ ending in exceedingly delicate and motionless cils, as indicated by Meczinchow, and which previously, from the wrinkled condition of the specimens detached from hard objects, had escaped his attention. The structure described by Meczinchow as a ganglion, he could not satisfactorily distinguish as such; nor had he been able to detect the arrangement of the excretory canals, as represented by the same author. The lateral view of the animal accords with the figure of *Cupelopagus* as given by Forbes; the body being ovoid, with the mouth of the prehensile cup oblique, and appearing more or less unequally two-lipped. In this view the antennæ are undistinguishable. In all the forms described, the prehensile cup, in the same manner, is projected from and withdrawn within the mouth of a compressed oval or nearly spherical carapace, dotted with minute tubercles. The prehensile cup, substituting the usual rotary organs of rotifers, communicates with a capacious, variably sacculated and dilatable stomach, followed by the ordinary gizzard with its mastax, and then a second sacculated stomach. The ovoidal cloacal pouch opens by an aperture, with radiated folds, externally, some distance in advance of the fundus of the carapace.

The size of the different specimens described varies greatly, In appearance, the form now to be described is markedly convex on the dorsal side, but is deeply indented longitudinally on the ventral side. The sarcode is highly vacuolate, the vacuoles narrowing towards the centre of the body. The fluid sarcode is granular, and the surface of the body is covered with a network of circles of various sizes, which, when enlarged three hundred and fifty diameters, are seen to be minute globular vacuoles. The snout-like prolongation, at the base of which is situated the oral aperture, is shorter than is usually represented in *Trachelius ovum.*

The principal difference has regard to shape, *Trachelius ovum* being egg-shaped, as indicated by the name, while the form just described is globosely convex dorsally, but flattened with a deep indentation ventrally.

It is a curious fact, and one whose import is not very complimentary to our water-supply, that the habitat of *Trachelius* is universally given as *bog-water.*

It is proposed to name this new species *Trachelius Leidyi*

The following was ordered to be printed :—